

Exton, PA - Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-07) visited the Laborers' Training School in Exton today. He met with various members of the district council, labor representatives, businessman managers, as well as apprentices who attend the training program, which includes 4,000 off-site hours as well as 300 hours in the classroom.

"I was extremely impressed by the professional approach to the quality and safety of workmanship that the Laborers' Training School demonstrates through its training facility, which has now been in existence for 26 years," said Congressman Sestak. "There is not a question in my mind that their work is of the best quality, effectiveness, and efficiency for any contractor."

Congressman Sestak toured the building and went into site construction both inside and outside the building. He also then discussed the Economic Stimulus Bill, which will include \$122 Billion for infrastructure and, in particular, \$30 billion for highways. The Congressman commented during the discussion that the unemployment rate for the first time in history is greater for men than it is for women, because the construction industry - which includes the building and trades craftsmen - has been so hard hit by this recession. In fact, that is why so much funding has been focused upon infrastructure.

The Congressman explained, "We must do all we can with the workers and businesses coming together to address the economic challenges we presently face. That is why I am a large proponent of the Economic Stimulus Bill -- both to salvage and to create jobs -- to make sure that we end this recession as soon as possible. In addition, I am very focused on ensuring a high skilled and trained workforce -- and that is exactly what the LIUNA is doing."

The Economic Stimulus Bill will include and provide:

Unprecedented Accountability: A historic level of transparency, oversight and accountability will help guarantee taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and Americans can see results for their investment.

In many instances funds are distributed through existing formulas to programs with proven track records and accountability measures already in place.

- How funds are spent, all announcements of contract and grant competitions and awards,

and formula grant allocations must be posted on a special website created by the President. Program managers will also be listed so the public knows who to hold accountable.

- Public notification of funding must include a description of the investment funded, the purpose, the total cost and why the activity should be funded with recovery dollars. Governors, mayors or others making funding decisions must personally certify that the investment has been fully vetted and is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars. This will also be placed on the recovery website.
- A Recovery Act Accountability and Transparency Board will be created to review management of recovery dollars and provide early warning of problems. The seven member board includes Inspectors General and Deputy Cabinet secretaries.
- The Government Accountability Office and the Inspectors General are provided additional funding and access for special review of recovery funding.
- State and local whistleblowers who report fraud and abuse are protected.
- There are no earmarks in this package.

This plan targets investments to key areas that will create and preserve good jobs at the same time as it is strengthening the ability of this economy to become more efficient and produce more opportunities for employment.

- Clean, Efficient, American Energy: To put people back to work today and reduce our dependence on foreign oil tomorrow, we will strengthen efforts directed at doubling renewable energy production and renovate public buildings to make them more energy efficient.

- \$32 billion to transform the nation's energy transmission, distribution, and production systems by allowing for a smarter and better grid and focusing investment in renewable technology.
- \$16 billion to repair public housing and make key energy efficiency retrofits.
- \$6 billion to weatherize modest-income homes.

- Transform our Economy with Science and Technology: We need to put scientists to work looking for the next great discovery, creating jobs in cutting-edge-technologies, and making smart investments that will help businesses in every community succeed in a global economy. For every dollar invested in broadband the economy sees a ten-fold return on that investment.

- \$10 billion for science facilities, research, and instrumentation.
- \$6 billion to expand broadband internet access so businesses in rural and other underserved areas can link up to the global economy.

- **Modernize Roads, Bridges, Transit and Waterways:** To build a 21st century economy, we must engage contractors across the nation to create jobs rebuilding our crumbling roads, and bridges, modernize public buildings, and put people to work cleaning our air, water and land.

- \$30 billion for highway construction;
- \$31 billion to modernize federal and other public infrastructure with investments that lead to long term energy cost savings;
- \$19 billion for clean water, flood control, and environmental restoration investments;
- \$10 billion for transit and rail to reduce traffic congestion and gas consumption.

- **Education for the 21st Century:** To enable more children to learn in 21st century classrooms, labs, and libraries to help our kids compete with any worker in the world, this package provides:

- \$41 billion to local school districts through Title I (\$13 billion), IDEA (\$13 billion), a new School Modernization and Repair Program (\$14 billion), and the Education Technology program (\$1 billion).
- \$79 billion in state fiscal relief to prevent cutbacks to key services, including \$39 billion to local school districts and public colleges and universities distributed through existing state and federal formulas, \$15 billion to states as bonus grants as a reward for meeting key performance measures, and \$25 billion to states for other high priority needs such as public safety and other critical services, which may include education.
- \$15.6 billion to increase the Pell grant by \$500.
- \$6 billion for higher education modernization.

- **Tax Cuts to Make Work Pay and Create Jobs:** We will provide direct tax relief to 95 percent of American workers, and spur investment and job growth for American Businesses. [marked up by the Ways and Means Committee]

Lower Healthcare Costs: To save not only jobs, but money and lives, we will update and computerize our healthcare system to cut red tape, prevent medical mistakes, and help reduce healthcare costs by billions of dollars each year.

- \$20 billion for health information technology to prevent medical mistakes and provide better care to patients and introduce cost-saving efficiencies.
- \$4.1 billion to provide for preventative care and to evaluate the most effective healthcare treatments.

- **Help Workers Hurt by the Economy:** High unemployment and rising costs have outpaced Americans' paychecks. We will help workers train and find jobs, and help struggling families make ends meet.

- \$43 billion for increased unemployment benefits and job training.
- \$39 billion to support those who lose their jobs by helping them to pay the cost of keeping their employer provided healthcare under COBRA and providing short-term options to be

covered by Medicaid.

- \$20 billion to increase the food stamp benefit by over 13% in order to help defray rising food costs.

- Save Public Sector Jobs and Protect Vital Services: We will provide relief to states, so they can continue to employ teachers, firefighters and police officers and provide vital services without having to unnecessarily raise middle class taxes.

- \$87 billion for a temporary increase in the Medicaid matching rate.

- \$4 billion for state and local law enforcement funding.

Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever elected to the Congress.

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